

of death for them continues to be accident and injury.

Children in the United States also continue to be at risk from illness due to the lack of timely immunizations, which can prevent diseases such as measles, mumps, and whooping cough. Unbelievably, our Nation continues to rank far below many lesser developed nations in the immunization rate for children. Our committee remains concerned about this problem and has consistently provided additional resources for childhood immunization programs. Again this year, we fulfill this commitment with increased funding to procure and distribute vaccines through public health centers and clinics.

We have made a significant investment in this bill in other areas of preventive health care. Funding is increased for the Centers for Disease Control to continue its breast and cervical cancer screening program, its surveillance for chronic and environmental diseases, screening for lead poisoning, tuberculous and infectious diseases, and for education and research activities to prevent injuries.

In another area of the bill, our committee maintained its commitment to the Social Security Program. For the first time, our committee has provided funding to a newly, independent Social Security Administration. Our bill includes \$5.9 billion for the administrative costs of the program, a \$300 million increase over the 1995 level, this despite the severe constraints faced by our committee.

This increase will enable the Social Security Administration to continue to make the investments necessary to automate agency operations based on a strategic plan that will improve the quality and efficiency of services. It will also allow for improvement in the processing of disability cases and in providing face-to-face phone service.

This reaffirmation of our support for Social Security sends a message that we strongly support the program, its almost 50 million current beneficiaries, and the countless millions of current contributors to the program who are future beneficiaries. We recognize the need to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Social Security service delivery.

Mr. Chairman, we have had to make many difficult decisions in the preparation of this legislation, but we have clearly defined some high priority areas in which the Federal Government must maintain its leadership responsibilities. This was not an easy task and it is one that will continue as this legislation moves through the House, Senate, and into conference.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education,

and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. FAZIO. Mr. Chairman, this bill is an outrage, and it deserves to be rejected and repudiated by every Member of this body.

This bill is unfair to the people who depend most on our Government: Our children and the elderly. This bill is shortsighted. It does not provide for investment in students and workers—the very people who will grow our economy.

This bill cuts \$6.3 billion from programs that average working families depend on.

Why? The unvarnished truth is that my Republican colleagues need to finance a tax break for wealthy Americans.

Every Democrat in this House is prepared and committed to bring our budget into balance, and provide a solvent, secure future for our children.

Yet, one-half of the cuts in this bill are stolen directly from the single best investment we can make in our future: education.

Overall spending on education has been slashed by nearly \$4 billion. Few children have been spared. Some of the most significant and effective programs for kids—including title 1, school-to-work, and safe and drug-free schools—are subject to potentially crippling cuts.

It's an exhaustive list, and frankly, to reduce this bill to a series of programmatic cuts, masks the underlying meanness of this bill. In its breadth and scope, this bill is simply a monster of inequity.

If you are the principal wage earner in a hard-working family, or you have found yourself among the growing ranks of the working poor, and you desire to provide a brighter future for your children, this bill is a declaration of war.

This bill declares war on opportunity. This bill puts politics ahead of principle. This bill values pay-offs ahead of people.

This much is certain. The Republicans do not discriminate. If you are not on the receiving end of the Republican tax bailout—that is, if you are elderly, poor, young, unemployed, or just struggling to get by—you suffer in equal measure.

Seniors fare no better than our children. This bill sends a strong message to our senior citizens that their past efforts are no longer acknowledged, and that their current contributions are no longer appreciated.

This bill guts the Older Americans Act, including Green Thumb. It targets other programs which provide preventive health support, pension and Medicare counseling, and home meals to a growing senior population.

This bill undercuts the health and safety of American workers. It undermines the enforcement of hour and wage laws. It makes it more difficult for people who have lost their jobs to find new jobs by slashing job training.

Some of the most vulnerable members of our society are subject to the most extreme—the most harmful—and the most mean-spirited provisions in this bill. If this bill is passed, victims of rape and incest will no longer be guaranteed the right to an abortion.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for working families and reject this bill. Don't allow the GINGRICH Republican to sell us down the river so they can reward their wealthy friends.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Chairman, I have consulted with Mr. STUMP, chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, regarding concerns raised by some veterans service organizations about the definition of grants in the provision of H.R. 2127 prohibiting use of Federal grants for political advocacy. They have long been furnished space and office facilities, if available, by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the free assistance and representation of veterans by veterans service organizations in making claims for their veterans benefits. The furnished space and facilities are specifically authorized by section 5902 of title 38. The VA is authorized under section 5902 to recognize the veterans representatives as well.

Chairman STUMP has informed me that the furnishing of space and office facilities for this purpose has never been considered a grant to veterans service organizations. The free assistance given to veterans by the service organizations is in fact of considerable benefit and value to the Government because the Government itself is legally obligated to assist veterans in making their claims.

Furthermore, Chairman STUMP has emphasized to me that the assistance and representation given to veterans by the veterans service organizations has not involved political advocacy in any way, shape, or form. The assistance has been solely for the purpose of helping individual veterans to make their claims for VA benefits. This free representation for veterans by veterans service organizations is unique. I know of nothing else like it and I want to see it continued.

Therefore, I want to make it crystal clear that there is no intent for this measure to apply to section 5902 of title 38. It does not. I have assured the veterans service organization that I will make every effort to make the legislation more specific about this point during conference.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under